

Federal Reserve System

§217.101

owns or controls foreign banks that in the aggregate have total worldwide consolidated bank assets in excess of \$1 billion; or

(iii) Its parent foreign bank is controlled by a group of foreign companies that own or control foreign banks that in the aggregate have total worldwide consolidated bank assets in excess of \$1 billion.

(2) For deposits held by a member bank or a foreign bank, this regulation does not apply to “any deposit that is payable only at an office located outside of the United States” (*i.e.*, the States of the United States and the District of Columbia) as defined in §204.2(t) of the Board’s Regulation D—Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions (12 CFR 20.4).

[Reg. Q, 51 FR 9637, Mar. 20, 1986, as amended at 57 FR 43336, Sept. 21, 1992]

§217.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply unless otherwise specified;

(a) *Demand deposit* means any deposit that is considered to be a *demand deposit* under §204.2(b) of the Board’s Regulation D—Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions (12 CFR part 204).

(b) *Deposit* means any liability of a member bank that is considered to be a *deposit* under §204.2(a) of the Board’s Regulation D—Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions (12 CFR part 204).

(c) *Foreign bank* means any bank that is considered to be a *foreign bank* under §204.2(o) of the Board’s Regulation D—Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions (12 CFR part 204).

(d) *Interest* means any payment to or for the account of any depositor as compensation for the use of funds constituting a deposit. A member bank’s absorption of expenses incident to providing a normal banking function or its forbearance from charging a fee in connection with such a service is not considered a payment of interest.

§217.3 Interest on demand deposits.

No member bank of the Federal Reserve System shall, directly or indi-

rectly, by any device whatsoever, pay any interest on any demand deposit.¹

INTERPRETATIONS

§217.101 Premiums on deposits.

(a) Section 19(i) of the Federal Reserve Act and §217.3 of Regulation Q prohibits a member bank from paying interest on a demand deposit. Premiums, whether in the form of merchandise, credit, or cash, given by a member bank to a depositor will be regarded as an advertising or promotional expense rather than a payment of interest if:

(1) The premium is given to a depositor only at the time of the opening of a new account or an addition to an existing account;

(2) No more than two premiums per account are given within a 12-month period; and

(3) The value of the premium or, in the case, of articles of merchandise, the total cost (including taxes, shipping, warehousing, packaging, and handling costs) does not exceed \$10 for deposits of less than \$5,000 or \$20 for deposits of \$5,000 or more.

The costs of premiums may not be averaged. The member bank should retain sufficient supporting documentation showing that the total cost of a premium, including shipping, warehousing, packaging, and handling costs, does not exceed the applicable \$10/\$20 limitations and that no portion of the total cost of any premium has been attributed to development, advertising, promotional, or other expenses. A member bank is not permitted directly or indirectly to solicit or promote deposits from customers on the basis that the funds will be divided into

¹A member bank may continue to pay interest on a time deposit for not more than ten calendar days; (1) Where the member bank has provided in the time deposit contract that, if the deposit or any portion thereof is withdrawn not more than ten calendar days after a maturity date (one business day for “IBF time deposits” as defined in §204.8(a)(2) of Regulation D), interest will continue to be paid for such period; or (2) for a period between a maturity date and the date of renewal of the deposit, provided that such certificate is renewed within ten calendar days after maturity.